

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 SSM-05 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 /071 W

-----121128Z 034900 /22

O R 121049Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5664  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2553

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, PINT, IS, US

SUBJECT: WOLF BLITZER REPORTS WASHINGTON REACTION TO LABOR PARTY  
CHANGES

1. IN A FRONTPAGE ARTICLE ENTITLED "CARTER TO INVITE  
'NEXT ISRAEL PRIME MINISTER'", THE JERUSAELM  
POST'S- WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, WOLF BLITZER,  
REPORTED TODAY THE REACTION IN WASHINGTON TO THE RECENT  
CHANGE FROM RABIN TO PERES IN THE LABOR PARTY  
LEADERSHIP.

2. BEGIN TEXT: PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER WILL INVITE  
ISRAEL'S NEXT PRIME MINISTER TO WASHINGTON, WHOEVER  
HE MAY BE, CARTER ADMINISTRATION SOURCES SAID  
YESTERDAY.

3. THE SORUCES SAID THAT SHIMON PERES WILL NOT BE  
ASKED TO COME BEFORE THE ELECTION.

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4. IT IS LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT TOP U.S. OFFICIALS  
WILL BE MEETING LATER THIS MONTH WITH ASHER BAN-  
NATAN, THE POLITICAL ADVISER TO PERES, WHO IS  
COMING TO WASHINGTON ON A VISIT ARRANGED BEFORE  
PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN DROPPED OUT OF THE  
TOP POSITION IN HIS PARTY'S LIST.

5. IN PREDICTING THAT CARTER WILL INVITE ISRAEL'S NEXT PERMIER, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS ALREADY MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WILL BE ANXIOUS TO MOVE THE ARAB-ISRAEL PEACE PROCESS ALONG QUICKLY WITH A VIEW TO RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE DURING THE LATTER HALF OF THIS YEAR.

6. A MEETING WILL BE CRUCIAL IN SUCCESSFULLY LAYING THE GROUND WORK FOR A U.S.-SPONSORED CONFERENCE, SOURCES HERE SAID. SUCH A GET-TOGETHER WILL FOLLOW CARTER'S ALREADY SCHEDULED ROUND OF TALKS WITH THE IMPORTANT ARAB LEADERS INVOLVED IN THE TALKS.

7. AMERICAN OFFICIALS WERE AT FIRST SOMEWHAT UNEASY OVER THE PROSPECTS OF A PERES-LED ISRAEL GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF HIS IMAGE HERE AS A "HAWK." BUT THE AMERICANS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN REASSURED DURING THE PAST TWO DAYS THAT PERES WILL NOT HARDEN ISRAEL FOREIGN POLICY, IF ELECTED.

8. AMERICAN OFFICIALS ARE NOT HIDING THEIR PLEASURE OVER THE POSSIBILITY THAT FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER ABBA EBAN MIGHT RETURN TO THAT POSITION IN A PERES-LED GOVERNMENT. EBAN IS LIKED HERE BECAUSE OF HIS REPUTATION AS A "DOVE."

9. SIMILARLY, AMERICAN OFFICIALS ARE PLEASED THAT YIGAL ALLON WILL PROBABLY RETAIN HIS MEMBER-UNCLASSIFIED

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SHIP IN THE TOP POLICY-MAKING TEAM IN ISRAEL, PERHAPS, AS HAS BEEN SPECULATED, TAKING OVER THE DEFENSE MINISTRY.

10. A PERES-ALLON-EBAN TEAM IS VIEWED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT AS A POSSIBLY STRONGER TEAM THAN THE EXISTING ISRAEL GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN PERCEIVED BY WASHINGTON AS "WEAK" AND "INDECISIVE."

11. PUBLICLY, AMERICAN OFFICIALS DECLINED TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN ISRAEL, CONCERNED THAT THEY MIGHT BE ACCUSED OF INTERFERING IN DOMESTIC ISRAEL POLITICS.

12. OFFICIALS ARE ALSO POINTING OUT THAT "THE ISRAEL ELECTORATE" HAS NOT YET SPOKEN, AND THAT ANY SPECULATION ABOUT A NEW ISRAEL GOVERNMENT IS "PREMATURE."

13. PRIVATELY, THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THE  
U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE LABOR PARTY  
DEFEAT THE OPPOSITION LIKUD, WHICH IS REGARDED  
BY WASHINGTON AS CONSIDERABLY MORE "HARDLINE"  
ON THE ISSUES OF WAR AND PEACE.  
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## Message Attributes

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